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Poems

Editorial Staff

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Bicentennial: What can we do to help?

We reach out continuously to those
that don't want to
be touched,
and love those that don't desire to
be loved.
We write, but no one reads.
We express, but no one hears.
We expend ourselves waiting on those
that never come,
cook dinners for guests that arrive late,
and who
are not hungry.
We work so others might eat,
Slave so that our own will have a home.
We listen and shed tears over a
sentimental song,
and remember lovers, we still wish
we had.
We miss our dead Aunties who were
more understanding,
and yet, we never visit their gravesites.
We have re-occurring dreams that old
so and so came
and took our man away.
But why? Is suffering so important?
We take the bitter with the sweet
cause we are strong,
Black, slave, loving women, chained,
maimed, mauled,
beaten, bruised, forgotten, gullible,
loved, limited,
cautious, creative, and desirable.

^{Staff Poems}
We have a million everyday celebrations
— a lover's
smile is a cherished memory: Keep on
Doing what
You're doing. It sure is good to some . . .

Toni Sullivan
Danville, Ill.

Expand

Experience your life, don't hide beneath
your face
Leave sinful thoughts behind, join
the human race
Fulfill all your dreams don't leave
them in a bind
Cause dreaming is a favor existing
for mankind
Eliminate distrust and all your
thoughts of hate
Bound loosely in your head at a golden
gate
Watch out for the blues, you know they
want a part
In your class of feelings that have no
end or start
Experience yourself while letting
yourself know
If you want to be on stage in your
own life show
Believe me I won't school you on this
natural act
That's put on by your mind and life
is a fact
So experience yourself don't live
your time too fast
Start living for the future and live
down all the past

Joseph Oliver
Arlington, Va.

The Elephant Hunt

All day we wandered into the forest;
The sun was high; the eagles were above
In the skies to stare at the living dead.
On and on we trekked till we could
see no more,
We made the fire, and prepared the
evening meal,
To feel fat our hunger, and rest our
aching feet.
Around the fire we danced,
Singing, jumping and telling the tale
of our lives;
The past, the present, and the future.
Till the king of the forest (the lion)
called for order.
It was time to retire, but we spoke
Of the big elephant, the small elephant,
The dead elephant, and the one which
got away.

Around the fire we danced, singing,
jumping,
And telling the tales of our lives,
The past, the present, and the future . . .

K. Pobbi-Asamani
Howard University

The Presidential Race

(Promises, Promises!)

I think I'll run for President!
Here are my credentials . . .
And, my fellow countrymen,
They're MORE than MERE
ESSENTIALS:

I'll pat dogs' heads and kiss all babies—
Thus running the risk of measles and
rabies!
Stick out your hand, and I'll shake it,
Ask me for cake, and I'll bake it!

I'll turn water almost into wine;
I'll rid the world of prejudiced swine!
I'll build "high-risers" up in the stars,
With rent-free housing on the planet
Mars!

I'll raise all teachers' "take-home" pay
To a hundred thousand dollars *a day!*
A ninety per cent tax CUT I'll propose,
And I'll meet *all opponents nose to nose!*
I'll stop all wars with a wave of my
hand,
And bring Peace and Love to our
troubled land!

Let me tell you, it's the WOMAN'S
TOUCH
That our country needs so much!
'Tis WOMAN who makes the world go
round;
'Tis SHE who'll make the dollar *sound!*

And since I am of this persuasion,
I take advantage of this occasion
To let you know that I'm *available . . .*
With a record *unassailable!*

My dear friends, I'll make you see
That I'M a MUST that JUST MUST BE!
THESE are things that you should
NOTE,
When it's time for you to VOTE!

So, I'm SURE I'll run for PRESIDENT!
I've GIVEN MY CREDENTIALS . . .
And, my fellow countrymen,
They're MORE than MERE
ESSENTIALS!
(I THANK you for LISTENING!!!)

Valerie Parks Brown
Washington, D. C.

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